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SOURCE Magyar Kozlony

DECREE PROVIDES FOR FURTHER
 CONSOLIDATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The Ministry of Agriculture, implementing Decree No 3 of 1949 of the Council of Ministers on the partial consolidation of agricultural and forest lands, has issued Decree No 18,085 for 1951, which contains the following provisions:

Requests for Consolidations

Requests for partial consolidation may be submitted by the following: (a) independent producers' cooperatives; (b) farmers who desire to create a producers' cooperative; and (c) heads of state farms, experimental stations, agricultural schools, or other agricultural enterprises.

Consolidation of lands of producers' cooperatives may be requested, if:

1. At least 300 cadastral yokes of the cooperative's lands are scattered over several locations but the area of each tract does not exceed 50 cadastral yokes.

2. At least 35 farmers desire to form a producers' cooperative in a village, and at least 300 cadastral yokes of the newly created cooperative are scattered at several locations, but the area of each tract is less than 50 cadastral yokes.

Consolidation of lands of state farms, except experimental stations or agricultural schools, may be requested, if a state farm is already in operation in a village and at least 400 cadastral yokes of the farm are scattered at several locations but the area of each tract does not exceed 50 cadastral yokes.

Consolidation of experimental stations and agricultural schools may be requested, if:

1. Holdings are scattered or must be increased by the consolidation of state-owned reserve lands, or

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2. An experimental station or agricultural school is to be established and there is sufficient state-owned reserve land available for this purpose.

Consolidation may be requested if the area of lands is less than 300 cadastral yokes for producers' cooperatives or 400 cadastral yokes for state farms but consolidation is justified in the interests of production.

Partial consolidation may not be requested in a town where partial consolidation was effected in 1949 and 1950. This regulation is not applicable to towns with extensive farming areas.

Preparation for the Executive of Consolidation

The Minister of Agriculture grants partial consolidation only in 702 towns in 1951. Requests are considered individually, and the minister, through the president of the town executive committee, notifies the applicant of his decision. Consolidation may not be initiated and carried out without the minister's permission. Persons who consolidate lands without permission are liable to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years. It is forbidden to consolidate vineyards and orchards.

Partial consolidation is carried out by the local consolidation committees under the supervision of the country executive committees. Members of the consolidation committees are as follows:

1. President of the local producers' cooperative or head of the local state farm
2. Delegates of the local organization of DEFOSZ (National Union of Working Peasants and Farmhands) and a representative of the local farmers' association.

Persons who are barred from membership in producers' cooperatives may not be members of a consolidation committee.

Administrative duties of consolidation are performed by school teachers.

It is the responsibility of the National Geodetic Institute to carry out the technical task of consolidation through its specialists. These specialists survey the lands to be consolidated or exchanged under the supervision of the head of the local county geodetic service.

Consolidation committees are to be formed on 21 August 1951. The first task of the committee is registration of all lands to be consolidated.

In regard to consolidation of producers' cooperatives, all lands held by the members are expropriated. As to consolidation of state farms, all lands used by them as well as state-owned reserve lands have to be registered.

Farmyards and appurtenances, as well as vineyards, orchards, and community forests and pastures, are exempt from consolidation.

Total consolidation is mandatory in towns where 70 percent of the lands are held by producers' cooperatives and all local producers' cooperatives and the local state farm request consolidation of the entire farming area, or the Minister of Agriculture approves a consolidation request for the entire farming area of the towns.

In general the consolidated tracts should be formed with due consideration for economic operation and with the least disturbance possible to independent peasant holdings, in areas where most of the land is held by the producers' cooperatives and the state farms, respectively. Lands of farmers not requesting

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consolidation should be consolidated only in case of necessity. Depending on local conditions, scattered lands of producers' cooperatives and state farms should be consolidated in tracts of 100 and 200 cadastral yokes, respectively.

Farm lands owned by persons who do not apply for consolidation shall be exchanged for lands located outside the consolidated tract and owned by members of a producers' cooperative. To avoid interfering with orderly farm operations, care should be taken to avoid repeated exchange of lands owned by professional farmers, which were received in exchange during the consolidation action in 1949 or 1950.

The exchange of farm lands shall be governed by the following regulations:

Land owned by professional farmers who do not apply for consolidation will be expropriated first, beginning with land of best quality and proceeding gradually toward poorer quality lands. The peasants affected by the exchange action shall be compensated by the allotment of other lands of equal value, at their choice.

Next, lands which fall within the consolidated tract and are owned by artisans, miners, and factory workers will be expropriated. Exchange of farm lands for this class of owners will be carried out, in general, on the same basis as in the case of professional farmers.

Kulaks will receive, in exchange for their expropriated farms, lands of equal value wherever possible.

Supervisors responsible for the process of consolidation shall submit their plans by 2 September 1951, when execution of the consolidation begins.

Execution of Consolidation and Legal Remedy

Consolidation and redistribution of lands shall be completed by the consolidation committees by 5 September 1951. Appeals against the consolidation resolutions are admitted only in the public interest. The following organizations and persons may appeal the consolidation resolutions:

1. County secretariat of DEPOSZ.
2. Union of County Cooperatives.
3. President of the local producers' cooperative.
4. Head of the state farm.

Final decision is rendered by the Minister of Agriculture.

In compensation cases final disposition is made by the president of the county executive committee.

Miscellaneous Regulations

Farmers must complete seasonal agricultural work regardless of impending consolidation of their lands. Producers' cooperatives and state farms may start farm work on consolidated lands only after the original owner has harvested his crop.

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